



Illustration by John H. Rumely,
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ERIGERON FORMOSISSIMUS VAR VISCIDUS **BEAUTIFUL FLEABANE**

Beautiful Fleabane is perennial with stems that are 10-40 cm high, and arising from fibrous roots. The lower leaves are spoon-shaped and up to 15 cm long, including the petiole. The middle and upper stem leaves are smaller and sessile. Foliage is glabrous to sparsely hairy, and the upper stem is glandular. 1-6 flower heads are borne on long stalks at the tops of the stems. Involucral bracts are glandular, sparsely long-hairy, and nearly all the same height: 5-8 mm. The 75-150 pink to blue or rarely white rays are 8-15 mm long and 1 mm wide. Disk flowers are yellow and 3-5 mm high. The achenes have long, thin, straight pappus bristles. Flowering July-September.

The glandular upper stem and involucral bracts distinguish this species from the similar *ERIGERON GLABELLUS*. *E. FORMOSISSIMUS* is not as leafy on the upperstem as *E. SPECIOSUS* and *E. SUBTRINERVIS*. A hand lens and technical key may be needed for positive identification.